

This curious little species has been described by Weigman under the present name,—by Tschudi under the generic name of *Chaunus*, and fully by Bibron, who retained the name originally given to it by Weigman. It now remains only to correct, from Mr. Darwin's notes, some points respecting the colours, which had been mis-stated in consequence of the action of the spirit in which the specimen had been preserved. The colour of this curious miniature representation of a Toad, is "ink black," excepting the palms and soles of the feet, a large transverse spot across the posterior part of the abdomen, two smaller ones near the middle, and in some specimens a few scattered little spots, all of the most intense vermilion red. There is one specimen from Bahia Blanca which has also some small "buff-orange" spots on the upper part.* Mr. Darwin observes that "the appearance of the vermilion colour is as if the animal had crawled over a newly painted board;" and he adds—"This Toad inhabits the most dry and sandy plains of Bahia Blanca, where there is no appearance of water ever lodging." The other specimens were taken at Maldonado, where it inhabits the sand-dunes near the coast. Mr. Darwin threw one into a pool of fresh-water, but he found it could hardly swim, and he thinks, if unassisted, it would have been soon drowned.

This species is diurnal in its habits, and may be daily seen under a scorching sun, crawling over the parched and loose sand. M. D'Orbigny brought specimens from Monte Video.

DIMENSIONS.

	In.	Lin.
Length of the head and body	1	0
of the anterior extremities	0	5
of the posterior extremities.....	0	8

GENUS—UPERODON. *Bibr.*UPERODON ORNATUM. *Mihi.*

PLATE XX.—Fig. 6.

Capite multò latiore quam longiore. Dorsò olivaceo, maculis fuscis, albo marginatis.

Habitat Buenos Ayres.

DESCRIPTION.—Head more than half as broad again as it is long, and equal in breadth to half the entire length of the head and body. Muzzle rounded. Nostrils oval, opening upwards and a

* This specimen from Bahia Blanca has a much smoother skin than the others; but from its similarity in all other characters there can be no doubt of its specific identity with them.

little outwards. Eyes rather large, the upper eyelids forming perfect flaps, which entirely cover the eyes. Body rounded, very broad. The shoulders and thighs wholly concealed by the skin of the body. Limbs very short. The anterior feet very broad. The toes somewhat depressed, very short, bordered with a fold of skin. Hinder feet with the toes more depressed and more distinctly bordered. Back covered with small glands.

COLOUR.—The colour of the upper surface is dark olive, becoming lighter at the sides, and having numerous dark brown spots, which are round, oval, elliptical, or irregular, of very various sizes, placed somewhat symmetrically, and each bordered with a whitish or yellow line. Beneath pale, excepting the throat, which is black.

I have ventured to consider this remarkable amphibian as specifically distinct from *U. marmoratum* of Bibron; a conclusion to which I have been almost imperatively led, by the fact of its inhabiting a different hemisphere from all known specimens of that species. The other was found by M. Leschenault in the interior of the peninsula of India: the specimen from which the present description is taken was obtained by Mr. Darwin at Buenos Ayres. Notwithstanding the similarity of the two species, which is so great as to have led Mons. Bibron to consider them as identical, I could not assent to such an anomaly as the existence of an animal, at once so rare and possessed of such limited powers of locomotion, in two regions so widely remote. I have not the opportunity of comparing the specimens of the former species with the present, but, even from Mons. Bibron's description, I believe that I can discover sufficient discrepancies between the animals, to bear me out in the view I have taken. These discrepancies I venture to place in the following tabular view, and leave zoologists to form their own conclusions.

UPERODON MARMORATUM.

"La tête offre en arrière une largeur à peu près égale à son longueur totale, laquelle entre pour le quart environ dans l'étendue de l'animal."

"On pourrait considérer la peau comme étant parfaitement lisse, si l'on ne voyait éparses sur le dessus du tronc un certain nombre de verrues glanduleuses d'un assez grand diamètre relativement à la grosseur de l'animal, mais fort peu saillantes ou à peine convexes."

"Les parties supérieures de ce Batracien présentent sur un fond olivâtre, d'énormes tâches brunes, toutes confluentes, ou s'anastomosant diversement."*

UPERODON ORNATUM.

Head fully half as broad again as it is long, and equal in breadth to half the total length of the animal.

Back covered with numerous *small* glandular tubercles, notably elevated.

All the spots on the back are quite distinct, not in any way passing into each other or connected, and each encircled by a white line.

* Bibr. Rept. VIII. p. 749.